THE JACKDAW.

A ludicrous circumstance.

THE following curious circumstance happened, a few days ago, at Doncaster: a traveller having put up at an inn, and received the necessary refreshment, retired to rest, but was disappointed; for his head had scarcely reached the downy pillow, when he was alarmed by a violent knocking at his chamber door, accompanied with (loudly vociferated) "Ostler! ostler! ostler!"

The traveller replied, that the ostler did not sleep there, and begged the person to desist knocking and hallooing. He had scarcely composed himself for rest, when the noise again commenced. The enraged fatigued traveller at length resolved to see who the nightly intruder was; and having opened the door, and seeing no person, concluded that his answer had satisfied. He then went to rest again, when the knocking and hallooing "Ostler!" was again repeated with redoubled vigour. The traveller, at a loss to conceive from whence such repeated noise could issue, and having had his imagination distorted by the *ghostly* accounts in the different newspapers, concluded that the knocking, &c. must proceed from a supernatural cause, and frightened himself to such a degree, that he began to cry out "Murder! thieves! fire" which soon alarmed all the persons in the inn, who immediately hastened to his chamber to know the cause, where they found the poor traveller almost frightened to death. At length, the cause was discovered: a jackdaw, belonging to the inn, from the frequency of the expression "Ostler!" had learned to pronounce it so distinctly, that a stranger might mistake it for a human voice; and had made the knocking with his beak—a trick taught him by the ostler to a awaken him in the morning.

Greatness of Mind.

The illiberal saying, that Women cannot keep a secret, refuted.

THE following anecdote will not only prove the fallacy of the remark, that a woman cannot keep a secret, but will serve as an additional instance of that generous and humane spirit which characterises our fair country women.

Some years since, a lady called at a glover's shop in the outskirts of the town, and purchased a pair of gloves for her immediate wear; observing at the time she was on her road to Barnet; that she had left her gloves at a friend's house where she had called, and that she was apprehensive of being benighted if she went back for them. The Glover fitted on the lady's gloves, and the lady, after paying for them from a purse well stocked with bank notes, stepped into her post chaise, and proceeded on her journey. She had scarcely reached Finchley Common, when a highwayman stopped the chaise and demanded her money: He entreated her not to be alarmed, he had no intention upon her person; if she surrendered her property it was all he wanted; distress, and not his will, urged him to this desperate act, and he was determined to remove his penury or perish. The lady gave her purse, and the desperado rode off. After he was gone, and the fright had subsided, the lady imagined that, in the address of the highwayman, she recognized the voice of the Glover she had some time a dealt with. The conceit struck her so forcibly, th she ordered the post-boy to drive back to town; choosing as she said, to venture further over the he On her arrival at the Glover's door, she knocked and gained admittance; the Glover himself opened the door. The lady desired to speak with him in private. The Glover showed her to a back parlour, when she exclaimed—

"I am come for my purse, which you have robbed me of this evening on Finchley Common!"

The Glover was confounded. The lady proceeded.

"It is of no use for you to deny it: I am convinced, that your life is at my mercy. Return me my property, and trust to my humanity!"

The Glover, overcome with guilt, shame, and confusion, returned the purse, confessed his crime, and pleaded his distresses. The lady, after a suitable admonition, gave him a ten pound note, bade him amend his way of life, and keep his own counsel; adding, that she would never divulge his name or place of abode. She kept her word; and though the robbery was stated in the public papers, the subsequent discovery was omitted, and it was not till very recently, that a minute of this singular transaction was found among the papers of the lady alluded to; even in this private memorandum the name and residence of the Glover was omitted, and the secret in that particular, rests with the lady in the grave.

After this tale, the truth of which may be relied on, who will say, that a woman cannot keep a secret?

[LONDON PAPER.]

Portsmouth.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1808.

To the Patrons of the Mirror.

THE EDITOR *encouraged by the flattering prospect before him, this day presents his Readers with the first number of* "THE LITERARY MIRROR," *and trusts it will prove, as it will be his diligent endeavour to render it, a fund of entertainment and instruction. Various are the mental tastes and appetites of men, and so various should be their food; these it will be his constant aim to feed and gratify. Innumerable are the sources from whence this supply may be drawn, and as inexhaustless as they are numerous. There is indeed enough in quantity, quality, and variety; but th cannot be obtained with and great ex be take that I*

for their [illegible] receive the [illegible] name [illegible] their fruit. But there may be those who may require physic instead of food, they shall not be neglected, and should a potion now and then prove salutary, the rational patient will censure the physician, because it was unpleasant at the time it was administered.

To you ye Fair, he [illegible] be particularly attentive, and should he ever wound, it will be but to heal. You he will often lead into a delightful garden, where you will find in summer the cooling shade, and the refreshing fount; where bloom the loveliest flowers, and where grow the choicest fruit where the heaven should ye in this the inspiring

The Gov
THURSDA
of Fasting

In England, the
Covent-Garden The
the Philadelphia t
A London pap
Drury Lane an
ing given a C
In Concor
Samuel Ly
nan Park
former
In I
both

La
F

Selected Poetry.

THE COMMON LOT.

A BIRTH-DAY CONTEMPLATION.

ONCE, in the flight of ages past,
There liv'd a man; and who was HE?
Mortal! howe'er thy lot be cast,
That man resembled THEE.

Unknown the region of his birth,
The land in which he died unknown;
His name has perish'd from the earth,
This truth survives alone:

joy and grief, and hope and fear,
triumph'd in his breast;
a tear!

mb,

ore;

grave
nb:
save

The following versification of the CXIV. PSALM, *is inimitably done. The immortal* MILTON, *was the author, and produced it, extraordinary as it may seem at the age of fifteen.*

WHEN the best seed of Terah's faithful son,
After long toil their liberty had won,
And past from Pharian fields to Canaan land,
Led by the strength of the Almighty's hand,
Jehovah's wonders were in Israel shown,
His praise and glory were in Israel known.
That saw the troubled sea and shiv'ring fled,
And sought to hide his froth-becurled head
Low in the earth; Jordan's clear streams recoil,
As a faint host that hath receiv'd the foil.
The high, huge bellied mountains skip like rams
Among their ewes, the little hills like lambs.
Why fled the ocean? And why skipt the mountains?
Why turned Jordan low'rd his chrystal fountains?
Tremble earth, at the presence stand aghast
Of him that ever was and ay shall last!
Who glassy floods from rugged rocks can crush,
And make soft rills from fiery flint stones gush.

From the Literary Tablet.

LITERATURE.

THE science and taste of a people may be very accurately determined by the encouragement given to literary productions. The toys of children are pleasing to a savage, and ornaments, little more costly, to weak minds in civilized society. A beautiful person, clad in good apparel, may captivate the eye of the beholder; but a well cultivated mind affords still greater pleasure to those who are capable of enjoying it. A man must possess considerable knowledge, to discover it in others. The powers of the mind are wisely formed for progressive improvement; and it is readily granted, that the capacity for happiness is increased in proportion, as the understanding is cultivated. This should operate as a strong inducement to every one of advancing his own condition and rendering himself more agreeable to his companions, by using each opportunity of acquiring instruction to the greatest advantage. Let none despair of success, for a resolute perseverance will overcome seemingly insurmountable difficulties.

To be ambitious of literary excellency, is laudable, is far different from that ambition, which endangers the lives and liberties of nations. Though self may be the principal object in view, yet its effects cannot be confined. An author, either induced to write for the sole purpose of gaining applause, or impelled by stern commands, if merit is displayed, gives to himself and to his readers. But literature will never flourish; position to read, less turn

N.

Anecdotes.

A Dancer saying to a Spartan, "You cannot stand so long upon one leg as I can." "True, replied the Spartan, but any *Goose can.*"

A Felon, on his way to *execution*, at Pennenden Leath, called out to some soldiers, as he passed, to know if they were not militia men, and some of them *substitutes*. Being answered in the affirmative, he drolly asked if either of them would become a *substitute* for him, as he did not like so much parade and nonsense, and wished to go another way.

A *newly inituated Magistrate* lately sent the following letter to his bookseller:—

"Sir, "Plese to send me all the ax of Parliment that belong to a Gustis of the pais, as I am now on."

Yours, &c.

A notorious thief lately accounted for his being found in a Merchant's Warehouse, by saying, he only went to get *bale*.

A deaf trunkmaker, being in a certain park when the guns were firing, asked a *byestander* the cause of their being fired, who replied, that it was the taking of St. Tobago. The trunkmaker being asked by another the reason of their being fired, very simply said, "I understand, sir, that it is in consequence of the taking *some tobacco.*"

Lord Bacon's opinion of Hope.

He used to say that Hope was a pleasant breakfast, a tolerable dinner, but a very bad supper.

Lawes on Pleading.

This Day Published, by

THOMAS & TAPPAN,

And for sale at their Bookstore, No. 1, Sheafe's buildings, Market street, by I. Thomas, jr. Worcester, Mass. and the principal booksellers throughout the United States.

AN ELEMENTARY TREATISE, ON PLEADING IN CIVIL ACTIONS.

BY EDWARD LAWES, OF THE INNER TEMPLE.

First American from the first London edition.

Extract from the London Monthly Review for April 1807.

"In this treatise, we meet with that successful arrangement, and perspicuity of statement, which constitute the chief merit of performances of this kind; while many observations and hints are here given, which will excite the curiosity and stimulate the researches of the attentive and diligent student. The addition of the specimens of the different periods was a happy idea, and will much assist the attainment of liberal and enlarged views of what is here termed a science, but which we think is more an art; we mean pleading."

Subscribers to the above are desired to call and receive their books. Feb. 16.

TERMS OF THE MIRROR.

Two dollars per annum, exclusive of postage.

To subscribers at a distance one half in advance will be expected.

One column will be devoted to advertisements.

The Literary Mirror,
PUBLISHED ON SATURDAYS,
BY STEPHEN SEWALL,
AT HIS PRINTING OFFICE IN COURT-STREET,
OPPOSITE THE BRICK MARKET,
PORTSMOUTH,
N. H.